Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 259708

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT:OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED BY NOW DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL-INFORMAL QUERY ON ALABASTER CASE.

2. THANKS FOR THE ALERT REGARDING THE OCC CLASSIFICATION OF YUGOSLAVIA AS A CREDIT RISK. WE ARE PURSUING AND WILL LET YOU KNOW.

3. CODEL SOLARZ. WE VERY MUCH REGRET THAT STATE 256833, WHICH WAS NOT FULLY CLEARED IN EE, PROVIDED NO GUIDANCE ON SOLARZ' REAL INTERESTS IN YUGOSLAVIA AND MERELY GAVE SOLARZ' "WISH LIST" OF APPOINTMENTS, MANY OF WHICH ARE CLEARLY IMPOSSIBLE. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THE VISIT WITH AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI THIS AFTERNOON AND WILL BE BRIEFING SOLARZ ON TUESDAY. WE WILL TRY TO GET YOU
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AS SOON AS POSSIBLE A MEANINGFUL LIST OF REQUESTS FOR HIS VISIT, WHICH NOW APPEARS TO BE SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 8-14.

4. AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI CAME IN TO SEE VEST TODAY TO DISCUSS PERSONALLY A PROBLEM WHICH HE FEARED COULD HAVE

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A NEGITIVE IMPACT ON OUR RECENTLY IMPROVED RELATIONS, NAMELY, THE SPATE OF PRESS STORIES ON JOVANKA. EMPHASIZING THAT HE WAS RAISING THIS ISSUE UNOFFICIALLY AND MERELY TO OBTAIN VEST'S IDEAS ON HOW THIS PROBLEM COULD BE RESOLVED, BELOVSKI NOTED THAT THE SPECULATION ABOUT JOVANKA COULD LEAD TO NEW DOUBTS ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA'S FUTURE JUST WHEN WE HAD SUCCEEDED IN CREATING A VERY POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE IN THE UNITED STATES. VEST PROMISED TO DO TWO THINGS: FIRSTLY, TO DOWN-PLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS STORY WHEN APPROACHED BY COLUMNISTS; AND SECONDLY, TO ENSURE THAT THE STATE PRESS PEOPLE DO NOT FEED THE RUMOR MILLS. HE TOLD BELOVSKI THAT HE WOULD NOT REPORT BELOVSKI'S COMMENTS. INASMUCH AS A CONTINUATION OF THE PRESS PLAY CAN DO US NO GOOD, WE INTEND TO FOLLOW GEORGE'S ADVICE--I HAVE ALREADY DISSUADED TAD SZULC FROM FOCUSING ON IT--AND I THINK THE EMBASSY SHOULD TRY TO DO THE SAME.

5. BELOVSKI ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH BRZEZINSKI REGARDING A POSSIBLE VISIT BY BRZEZINSKI TO YUGOSLAVIA IN AUGUST. BELOVSKI TOLD VEST THAT HE HAD GUARANTEED BRZEZINSKI TWO DAYS OF INFORMAL TALKS WITH KARDELJ AND A MEETING WITH TITO.

6. WE USED OCCASION OF BELOVSKI VISIT TO MENTION SOLARZ' TRIP AND BELOVSKI PROMISED TO ARRANGE LUNCH WITH SOLZRR
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NEXT WEEK.

7. SAM CALLED YOUR REAL ESTATE AGENT WHO ASSURED HIM THAT OCTOBER RENT WAS PAID AND DEPOSITED IN YOUR ACCOUNT. THEY ALSO SAID THEY HAD SENT YOU LETTER EXPLAINING SITUATION WITH RENTOR. VANCE

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